



TONTO NATIONAL FOREST

# NEWS RELEASE

*Tonto National Forest, 2324 East McDowell Road, Phoenix, Arizona 85006* [www.fs.usda.gov/Tonto](http://www.fs.usda.gov/Tonto)

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**For Immediate Release**  
**August 30 2011 – 2000 hrs.**

**Contact: Fire Information Officer**  
**602-525-1042**

**Three fires being managed on the Globe Ranger District**  
**Tonto National Forest**  
Update – 2000 hrs.

**Globe, Ariz.** (August 30, 2011 – 2000 hrs.) – Globe Ranger District fire specialists are currently managing three lightning-caused wildfires: the Frio (750 acres), the Kellner fire (5 acres), both in the Pinal Mountain range, and the 650 Fire which began Aug. 28 northwest of Superior in the Superstition mountains on Montana Mountain.

The 650 fire has now moved into the Superstition wilderness area and is around 600 acres in size, spreading rapidly to the east.

Personnel and equipment are assigned to these fires and fire management officials are pleased with the fire behavior, direction and progress.

A burn-out on Madera around the electronics tower will be conducted tomorrow on the Frio fire.

Smoke and flames from the 650 fire may be visible to East Valley residents.

The Kellner fire is not showing any activity.

Vistors and residents may see light-to-moderate smoke throughout the day, with the possibility of smoke drifting towards and settling in Globe and Miami.

Due to current weather conditions, including monsoon humidity, these lightning-caused fires can be allowed to play their natural role in the ecosystem.

Managed wildfires are monitored by fire specialists to meet resource benefits such as allowing them to burn naturally in fire-adapted ecosystems when it can be done safely, effectively and efficiently (pose no immediate risk to life, safety, property or resources).

A managed wildfire is started from a natural ignition, such as lightning. Wildfires that are human-caused cannot be classified as a managed wildfire. Managed wildfires are utilized to improve and benefit natural resources. Benefits to natural resources derived from a managed wildfire may include:

- Reduction of heavy fuel loading that diminishes the threat of catastrophic wildfire.
- Reintroduction of fire into the landscape to perform its historical role of cleaning the forest floor of dead and down vegetation, eliminating sickly trees, and generally keeping the ecosystem healthy.
- Raising the crown base height. The crown base simply means the lowest limbs on a individual tree that would allow a ground fire to climb into those limbs and transition the fire vertically up into the tree to create a crown fire.
- Recycling valuable nutrients back into the soil.
- Maintaining and improving wildlife habitat.

For further information, please call the Globe Ranger District at 928-402-6200. Residents can also stay updated on prescribed fires at [www.fs.usda.gov/Tonto](http://www.fs.usda.gov/Tonto). To report a wildland fire, the fire emergency number is 866-746-6516, or dial 9-1-1.

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650 Fire location:

Latitude: 33 24 00

Longitude: 111 09 99